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No. 3.

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

NATIONAL WAR COMMITTEE

OF THE

CITIZENS OF NEW-YORK.

In accordance with a resolution adopted by the National War Committee of the citizens of New-York, at their thirteenth session, September the eighteenth, that a report be published of all the proceedings of the committee from its organization until the present time, the following report has been prepared by the Secretary, from the minutes of the committee, and ordered to be made public in the daily journals:

REPORT.

The National War Committee of the citizens of New-York was appointed at the war meeting held Wednesday, 27th of August, at the City Hall Park, under the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That the following named persons,

George Opdyke,	Samuel Sloan,
Moses H. Grinnell,	A. C. Richards,
Alex. T. Stewart,	R. M. Blatchford,
William Orton,	Charles Gould,
Isaac Sherman,	Prosper M. Wetmore,
Terence Farley,	Michael Corcoran,
Jonathan Sturges,	Nehemiah Knight,
Andrew Carrigan,	David Dows,
Peter Cooper,	Edwards Pierrepont,
David Dudley Field,	H. W. T. Mali,
Richard D. Lathrop,	James W. White,
John Austin Stevens, Jr.,	William Curtis Noyes and
Abram Wakeman,	Hiram Walbridge,

be a National War Committee, (with power to add to their number and fill vacancies,) to represent the people of the City of New-York, in all that relates to obtaining and using the means for a vigorous prosecution of the war, and a speedy destruction of the rebellion."

The committee met on Thursday, 28th August, and organized with the election of Hon. George Opdyke, Mayor of the city, as permanent Chairman, and Peter Cooper, Esq., as permanent Vice-Chairman. A Secretary was also appointed, and regular minutes directed to be kept of the proceedings, from which the following is an abstract:

Mr. Charles Gould was appointed Treasurer.

The Chatham Bank was selected as the depository of the fund.

A Finance Committee was named, consisting of A. T. Stewart, Peter Cooper, Andrew Carrigan, Nehemiah Knight, H. W. T. Mali. Subsequently Jonathan Sturges was added to the committee.

An Executive Committee was named, to consist of eleven persons—George Opdyke, Peter Cooper, A. T. Stewart, D. D. Field, Charles Gould, Nehemiah Knight, P. M. Wetmore, William Orton, Andrew Carrigan, H. W. T. Mali, John Austin Stevens, Jr.

A circular was addressed to the citizens of New-York, inviting contributions "from corporations and individuals, to place regiments in the field, and to fill up the ranks of the Corcoran Legion."

On the 1st September, the committee decided, in order to increase its usefulness, to augment its numbers, as contemplated by the resolution under which it was raised, to forty-one, and the following persons were added: Aldermen Froment and Dayton, Councilman Barney, William A. Darling, Chas. H. Marshall, Marshall O. Roberts, Moses Taylor, William E. Dodge, Morris Ketchum, H. G. Stebbins, William B. Astor, Cornelius Vanderbilt, R. H. McCurdy, James Benkard and Adrian Iselin. Subsequently, to afford representation to the patriotic German element of the population of the city, Francis Lieber, Sigismund Kaufmann and Hugo Wesendonck were added.

The Executive Committee was also ordered to be increased to fifteen; but no occasion arising for the action of this Committee, the additional members have not yet been named.

On the 1st September, confidential information was received from Washington of the probable disasters sustained by our army in its front, and the dangers by which the Capital was threatened; and a desire was intimated by some of the high officers of the Government that the committee, in common with every loyal organization, should render practical aid in the emergency; whereupon, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That in the present situation of affairs, the first duty of loyal citizens is to press forward the new levies to the seat of war, with the utmost possible despatch. Not a day should be lost; since the gain of a single day may lead to the most momentous results.

Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed, to urge upon the citizens and public authorities, personally and by correspondence, the importance of now attending to this duty, before every thing else.

Resolved, That in order to have the entire military power of the loyal States ready and able, at an hour's notice, to defend our country against either rebellion or invasion, the National War Committee recommend that every loyal man, able to bear arms, should, without exception on account of position or age, immediately enrol himself to learn and practice the drill of a soldier and the manœuvring of war, and, as soon as practicable, procure suitable equipments and arms.

Resolved, That in order to facilitate the complete arming and organization, a book of enrolment be kept open by this committee, and that so soon as twenty names are enrolled from any vicinity, they be notified by the secretary of this committee to organize themselves into a company, commence their drills, and call for recruits.

Resolved, That the Governor of the State be requested to approve of this organization.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the different cities

and villages of the country to appoint war committees to correspond and co-operate with this.

The committee of seven contemplated by the second resolution consisted of David Dudley Field, Charles Gould, Nehemiah Knight, John Austin Stevens, Jr., Abram Wakeman, Prosper M. Wetmore, William Orton.

Information having been laid before the committee that the deficiencies in the old regiments from the State of New-York amounted to 53,000 men, it was also

Resolved, That the Governor of the State of New-York be urged to draft sufficient recruits to fill up the old regiments without delay.

The committee of seven thus raised, divided itself into sub-committees, to confer with the Governors of the Eastern States, the State of New-York, the States of Pennsylvania and New-Jersey, and the Western States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan, and to urge upon them the extreme importance of at once pressing forward recruits and regiments for the defence of Washington. They were also instructed to ascertain what forces had already left the States; what difficulties, if any, there were in transportation, uniforms, equipments and arms, in order to combine a system by which all such difficulties could be overcome. They were also to ascertain in what state of defence the several States were, and what numbers of arms there were in reserve. Further, they were to urge upon the authorities of the several States the great need of a uniform depot system throughout the United States, by which the regiments sent to the field could be kept full and effective, and to ask their co-operation to its establishment.

The several reports of these sub-committees were submitted in writing, and stand upon the files of the committee. From them a condensed report was prepared and submitted to the President and Secretary of War, by a delegation, on the 10th September, and the importance of an improved military system was strongly urged.

On the 2d inst., while arranging these preliminaries to hasten forward troops at the request of the government, the committee learned with surprise that the armed and trained

militia regiments of this State, whose time of temporary service had just expired, were returning armed to their homes; and believing that such an anomaly could not exist with the knowledge of the authorities, and assured that the regiments which had so often displayed their patriotic readiness and gallantry, would not hesitate to press forward when the safety of the Capital itself was involved, a telegraphic communication was despatched to the Secretary of War, urging the recall of these regiments. The sequel, with which the public is familiar, showed that these regiments had left the field under misapprehensions in the mind of the General-in-Chief, and the committee were gratified that their action resulted in the complete justification of the militia regiments in the public mind.

A committee was also raised, Messrs. Field, Farley and Dayton, to confer with General Corcoran on the best means of at once filling his brigade.

On the 2d, the news of the retreat of the Union forces to Washington, and of the proposed reorganization of the army, broken, and, it was stated, demoralized by the recent engagements, (for which various causes were assigned, but of the fact of which little doubt was entertained,) was received, and the committee earnestly debated the means by which the government could be most effectually aided in the hour of danger.

The course pursued by the government itself, in authorizing Generals Sigel and Corcoran to raise special corps, seeming to the committee to be the best adapted to the emergency, the following resolutions were adopted, it being considered that the popularity of the officers named, the only two generals then in the city, would rally to the support of the government large numbers of recruits not otherwise likely to be obtained:

Resolved, That General Fremont and General Mitchell be each requested, if the government will consent, to organize in this State, without delay, a corps of 50,000 men, and that application for such consent be made to the general government, and if it refuses, then to the State government.

Resolved, That all residents of this city who are willing to

join such a corps, be requested to communicate their names and residences to some member of this committee.

The purpose of these resolutions having been misrepresented by a part of the press, and misunderstood by some of the community, on the 10th inst. the committee unanimously adopted and made public a further resolution declaratory of the object proposed by their passage:

"The National War Committee of the citizens of New-York having passed the annexed resolution on the 3d inst., and in the hope that the names of the two major-generals mentioned, being the only two then in New-York and not on duty, would attract to the service of the country some persons who might not otherwise enter it immediately, and the following correspondence having thereupon taken place, and the answer of the War Department being accepted by this committee as conclusive in its action, it is, therefore,

Resolved, That no further action be taken under the said resolution, and that the same, together with the correspondence, be published.

On the 5th, a committee of three—Messrs. D. D. Field, C. H. Marshall and Jonathan Sturges—was appointed "to examine into and report the condition of the militia, and other means of defence of this State, and what measures, if any, are necessary to strengthen them."

This committee reported on the 11th, in writing, showing the discreditable condition of the militia of the State, as an effective force, notwithstanding the ample provisions and the express injunctions of the Constitution of the State of New-York, and the report was made public.

A series of resolutions, expressive of the profound regret with which the committee received tidings of the death of Major-General Philip Kearney, and of an agreement to attend his funeral ceremonies in a body, was also passed and printed.

On the 8th, the committee, hearing that the friends of General Corcoran had raised a special committee, of which Judge Charles P. Daly was treasurer, ordered a transfer of the $2,450, which had been specially subscribed to the funds

of the committee, to recruit the Corcoran Brigade; and the same was duly paid on the 10th.

On the same day, a letter being received from August Belmont & Co., impugning the good faith of the committee, and threatening a personal liability for the disposal of the $1,000 subscribed by them to the general fund, the committee returned them the amount, with a note from the Chairman.

Up to this period, not a dollar had been appropriated by the committee to any purpose whatever.

The committee were strongly urged to advance $7,500 to the Judge-Advocate-General, to complete the enrolment lists of New-York. The State authorities considered it was stated that they had no authority, under the law, to make any appropriation for this purpose; but as the meeting of citizens, by whose authority the War Committee was raised, was called together "to fill up the veteran regiments of New-York volunteers—to make full response to the State call for new regiments—to organize and fill up the Corcoran Brigade"—which seemed rather to indicate a desire on the part of the people to avoid the necessity of a draft than to promote one—the committee declined to make the advance requested.

On the same day, the State bounty having ceased to be paid, by limitation of the authorities, the Committee

Resolved, That, of the funds in the hands of the committee, three thousand dollars be reserved for future demands, and that the balance be appropriated, so far as it will go, or may be required, to the payment of a bounty of fifty dollars ($50) to each resident of this city who shall enlist in the Corcoran Legion, or any other regiment now recruiting in this city within the next ten days, and that the money be paid in regular order as the vouchers of enrolment are furnished to the treasurer, or there may be means on hand.

The unjust attacks of a portion of the press upon the intentions and actions of the War Committee, having prejudiced the minds of a portion of the community, a debate ensued on the 18th, as to the propriety of sitting with open doors; but so many reasons appearing, why a committee of so import-

ant a character, and holding such confidential relations with both the States and general government, should not, in times of grave national peril, make public its proceedings or deliberations; and least of all, the information upon which they are based, when publication would clearly be destructive of such confidential relations with the authorities, and prejudicial to the public interests, it was

Resolved, That a report be published of all the proceedings of the committee, from its organization to the present time, and that the committee continue to sit with closed doors.

The foregoing report contains a true abstract of all the proceedings of the committee to the present time.

The committee submits, that it has not departed, in any instance, from the strict line of its important duties, and relies with confidence on the respect and support of the loyal community.

The committee now confidently asks, that contributions be continued, in order that the sphere of its usefulness may be enlarged. There are, on the files of the committee, applications for aid from many of the most gallant of the regiments which have upheld the honor of the city in the field of battle; witness the 51st, the 5th, (Duryee's Zouaves,) &c., &c., whose appeals should not be disregarded.

Since the organization of the committee some resignations have been received, and some of the vacancies have been filled. The committee, as now constituted, is composed of Messrs.

George Opdyke,	Terence Farley,
Peter Cooper,	H. W. T. Mali,
Charles Gould,	Andre Froment,
David Dudley Field,	Isaac Dayton,
Prosper M. Wetmore,	George A. Barney,
Richard D. Lathrop,	Charles H. Marshall,
Michael Corcoran,	Marshall O. Roberts,
Hiram Walbridge,	Henry G. Stebbins,
William Orton,	R. H. McCurdy,
John Austin Stevens, Jr.,	Nehemiah Knight,

Isaac Sherman,
Abram Wakeman,
R. M. Blatchford,
James W. White,
William Curtis Noyes,
A. C. Richards,
Wm. A. Darling,
Geo. D. Phelps,
Wm. G. Lambert,
Francis Lieber,
Hugo Wesendonck,
Sigismund Kaufmann,
Henry M. Pierce.

This report, having been submitted to the committee on the 22d, was approved, and ordered printed.

GEORGE OPDYKE,
Chairman.

John Austin Stevens, Jr.,
Secretary.

New-York, 22*d September*, 1862.

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